Hemkund Sahib

2929. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on the Hemkund Sahib destination in Uttaranchal under the scheme of promotion of cultural destinations;

(b) the quantum of funds allotted therefor; and

(c) Government's plans to improve facilities at this important historical and religious destination, which is visited by a large number of pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Development and improvement of facilities at religious places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/ Infrastructure and Destination Development and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Details of the Central assistance sanctioned for Uttaranchal are as under:

Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	3	612.50
2003-04	2	213.14
2004-05	6	2184.98

(b) No amount is earmarked for development of any place.

(c) The destination Hemkund Sahib has been prioritized for the year 2005-06 under the Scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits. Project proposals for development of destinations/circuits that are complete in all respect are considered on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.